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THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 30, 1954

Reports from the Paris papers indicate a general acclaim in France for Eden's proposal of yesterday on maintenance of British forces in Europe.

At the morning meeting we discussed various matters to be tidied up in working parties.

I lunched with Nancy, Betty Salisbury, E., Ronnie and Michael Tree. Betty broke her ankle several months ago and it is still troubling her.

Things were slack this afternoon, so I went out to Bert Crowther's junk garden at Lyon Lodge, and wandered around in the rain amongst vast numbers of melancholy-looking busts and statues.

This is P.Z.'s birthday. She is thirty, and E. and she are having tea together, a drink to which neither is much addicted. P.Z. is a charming young woman, full of enterprise.

I had talked to Livie last night about my plans. He would like me to remain abroad until after the second NATO meeting -- this will probably be held in mid-December.

The English public is much interested in the recent discovery in the heart of the City of a Roman temple. A couple of ancient statues have also been found in the excavation. There is a movement on to conserve this site from building operations. The financial loss entailed is estimated at half a million pounds. I hope the antiquarians carry the day.

Back at the Embassy I found things moderately quiet, with a few optimistic souls predicting the conclusion of the Conference on Saturday night.

The consensus in our delegation is that if the U.K. had made any such pledge as [redacted] contained in yesterday's pronouncement prior to the presentation of the EDC Treaty to the French Parliament, Mendès would have had to support the treaty and it would have been approved. HMG had stated its belief that there was no

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alternative solution of the German problem as meritorious or promising as the EDC. Now they are offering much stronger guarantees for a presumably less attractive proposition. However, that is now past history and it is useless to dwell on it.

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